

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
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EVENT#: 171001-3519

SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: DETECTIVE VERL CONOVER (VC), P# 8388

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE M. SCLIMENTI (MS), P# 6239, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1756 hours. Also present are Detective K. Ploense (KP), P# 6269, and Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative B. Yant (BY), P# 6956.

MS: This is Detective M. Sclimenti, P# 6239 with the Force Investigation Team conducting a recorded statement with Detective Verl Conover. His P# is 8388, his call sign is Paul David 68. His date of hire is [REDACTED] He works at the South Central Area Command. His squad is South Central 36. His RDOs are Thursday, Friday, Saturday and his hours are 1430 to 0030. His vehicle number is 4583. This interview is reference to an officer-involved shooting - mass shooting that occurred on October 1, 2017, at 2208 hours in the area of the Mandalay Bay casino located at

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3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. Today's date is October 3, 2017, and the time is 1756 hours. This statement is being conducted at 400 South Martin Luther King Boulevard, Building C, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. Also present is Detective K. Ploense, P# 6269 and PPA Representative Bryan Yant, P# 6956. Detective Conover, are you aware that this interview is being recorded?

VC: Yes.

MS: Okay. Before we get started, um, you are currently a detective and could you describe to me what, uh, standard or what uniform you were wearing that - the night of the incident?

VC: I had on a black polo shirt, blue jeans, uh, black tac vest, um, on the right side of the vest has my last name, uh, left side has the Metro star, the emblem. And on the back of the vest has a large square, uh, patch that says police.

MS: And were you carrying a duty belt or did you have different items?

VC: I have my gear on the - on the tac vest. I have my duty weapon, OC spray, flashlight, handcuffs, radio, uh, two extra mags.

MS: Were you wearing a body camera?

VC: No.

MS: Okay. And your weapon is a Glock C-19 9-millimeter with a serial number [REDACTED]
Is that correct?

VC: Yes.

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MS: Let's focus your attention on October 1st, 2017, uh, the night of the shooting at the Mandalay Bay. Um, just gonna - just please describe to me how did you learn the call or what details you learned. Just start from there.

VC: We were or I was in the office. Detective Berg came in from the other room and said that there was, uh, an active shooter at the Mandalay Bay. Uh, we turned on our radios to monitor the call. Once we realized that what is - that it was a legitimate call, um, started getting our - our gear together, uh, and we left as a squad. Um, myself and Detective Trzpis in my vehicle, uh, Detective Edge and Detective Berg in his vehicle. Uh, we made our way to the south side of the Mandalay Bay 'cause at the time, uh, the suspect was still shooting out of the east side of the building. So we didn't want to, uh, put ourself in his, uh, line of sight, I guess. So we came into the Shark Reef. When we got to the Shark Reef we met, uh, there was two canine officers there. I wanna say it was a canine sergeant and another canine officer. Uh, we went in as - as the six of us went in, uh, made our way through the casino to I wanna say it was either the registration desk or where the security was, uh, we made contact with those folks to get a - a little bit of an idea of what the situation was and what they had known. Uh, at that time I wanna say we met up with, uh, Sergeant Matchko and there was a handful of other officers, uh, with him. We made our way to the elevators. At that time we were under the impression that it was possible he was on the 29th floor. Uh, the elevators were - I wanna say they were locked out but we had somebody with us that unlocked the elevator for us. So we went up in the elevator, uh, got off on 28, um, made our way through the stairwell up to 29. Uh,

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when we came through 29, uh, we encountered other officers on 29, um, we got some more information that the shooter was actually on 32. Uh, so as a unit we went back up through the stairwell up to 32. Uh, we came in on - I wanna say we came in in the 300s. The stairwell we came up was in the 300 wing. Uh, we made our way east through the hallway into the center, you know, 'cause it kinda has three legs on it.

MS: Mm-hm.

VC: So we kinda made a - met up in the center there. Um, there were Mandalay Bay security was there with a couple of maintenance guys. Uh, they told us that the shooter's room was, uh, at the end of the 100 block of the rooms. Um, so from there we set up. Just kept eyes on the room, um, Sergeant Matchko took a handful of officers with him, uh, to get a better, uh, view of the room. I wanna say to get a better location on the room. There were some officers in the hallway. I don't know who they are or I just remember seeing somebody down in the middle of the hallway watching the suspect's door. Uh, so we took up kind of a rear position a containment position, I guess, having eyes on the door. Um, from that point it was myself, Farrah, a couple other uniformed officers, uh, while Matchko and I wanna say there was - I wanna say one of the SWAT guys was there. I think his name is Levi. I think he was either with us or met them at the door. Um, while we were sitting there we discovered that, uh, nobody had been -- 'cause the way the hallway is set up and then you got the other hallway here south of -- none of those persons had been evacuated yet, um, so I ended up - I left. Two officers stayed with Farrah watching

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the door, uh, I took three armed Mandalay Bay security officers with me and we started evacuating, uh, the folks that were in the 200 wing just in case if he started to shoot through the door. We thought if we were taking fire that they might be, uh, there could be a problem with that. So we started to get those folks out of the rooms, um, about three-quarters of the way through that, um, the team made entry into the - to the room. I finished getting everybody out of that wing, uh, and then I met back up with, uh, Sergeant Matchko, Trzpis and his team at the door of the suspect's room. Um, from that point Trzpis and I and Matchko stayed on the suspect's room until you guys showed up. That's pretty much it.

MS: Okay. Um, did you ever enter the room?

VC: No.

MS: Did you ever hear any gunshots before or when - before you guys even made it up to the hotel or on the hotel floor?

VC: Other than on the - no - no. I was gonna say I didn't even - I don't even think I heard 'em on the radio. So no.

MS: Okay. Go ahead.

KP: Detective Ploense. Um, way back in the beginning of your, uh, interview you said you were at the office. What office was that?

VC: Uh, South Central the PD office.

KP: Okay. South Central Area Command?

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VC: Yep.

KP: Okay. And you - were you able to see anybody go into the room to clear it?

VC: No.

KP: Why's that? Where were you at?

VC: I was - I was about three-quarters of the way down the 200 wing, um, evacuating the guests.

KP: Okay.

VC: So when they made entry into the room I was, uh, I heard it but I was inside of a room dealing with guests trying to get them out.

KP: Okay - okay. And, uh, one other thing. I'm sorry I may have missed it. But, uh, were you wearing your helmet or no?

VC: Oh I did have my helmet on, yeah, yes.

KP: Okay. Standard black LVMPD ballistic?

VC: Yep.

KP: Semi-shield.

VC: Shield or visor, yeah.

KP: Okay.

MS: Did you guys - so you took the elevator you didn't took the stairwell?

VC: We took the - we took the elevator to 28 and then we did the stairwell to 29.

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MS: Okay.

VC: And then went back into the stairwell, took the stairwell back up to 32, uh, and then went into the hallway there.

KP: Okay.

MS: And did, uh, what - did somebody tell you that hey the room's clear or whatever and then you just posted up on the outside and s- and stood by until Detective reb- uh, released you.

VC: Trzpis and Sergeant Matchko, um, when I met back up with them they were part of the entry team. I don't know if Matchko was part of the entry team or not.

MS: Okay.

VC: To be honest. Uh, I know Trzpis went in. I know he went in with Levi. Um, they were inside the room when I got to there. They were so I just posted up outside the door, um, that was it. So the only two that I really saw inside the room were, uh, Matchko and Trzpis.

MS: Anything else?

KP: No, nothing else.

MS: Do you have anything?

BY: The only thing I got for you Verl is when - when you heard the call and - and you all got loaded up and left South Central what do you think the - how long do you think

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the call had been going on or how quick was your arrival, um, because South Central's in such close proximity to the Mandalay Bay. Did you...

VC: From...

BY: ...still think it was dynamic and actively going on?

VC: Oh no, yeah. We were still under the impression that it was a dynamic situation. That they were still taking fire in the street. 'Cause when Jessie came out and told us that - that there was an active shooter, I mean, by the time we got our gear, got in the car and got to Shark Reef, uh, five minutes maybe ten.

MS: What did you see when you entered into the hotel?

VC: Business as usual. There was nobody - everybody was sitting at the bar and gambling and meandering around and, you know, when they saw us running through the thing they were just kinda what's, you know, what's going on here? So I didn't really think any of the guests really had an idea what was going on at that point.

MS: And when you went up you said there was security personnel that kinda helped or gave you some information and stuff up on the 32nd floor or whatever?

VC: Uh, I wanna say Sergeant Matchko was on the - he wasn't on the radio he was on the phone 'cause we could- couldn't get on the radio, um, and he - he was - whoever he was speaking with. I wanna say we or he had told us that, you know, we need to go up to 32.

MS: So then...

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VC: We gathered back together and went back up the stairwell.

MS: At any point did you discharge your firearm?

VC: No.

BY: Okay.

MS: All right. Uh, at this time the interview will end. I don't have any other questions. Is there anything else? I'm sorry. Is there anything else that you think is relevant or pertinent to this investigation...

VC: No.

MS: ...that we failed to ask you?

VC: No, I'm good.

MS: Okay. At this time the interview will end. Again the date is October 3, 2017, at 1807 hours.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1807 HOURS.

**MS: KP: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)
FIT2017-032
Reviewed by M6239S
10-08-17**